(b) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has been increasing its occupancy in this region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has diverted the erosion of the river Gandak towards India by illegal deforestation and mining; and

(d) if so, the action Government are taking to take back the Indian territory from Nepal and for seeking compensation for the Biharis killed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) There are differences of perception between Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal on the alignment of boundary in Susta region of West Champaran District of Bihar, where in our views the Nepalese have encroached upon Indian territory.

Government are not aware of any reports to suggest that a number of Indians have been killed by the Nepalese in Susta region.

As rivers in this region do change course over a period of time; it is possible that this has happened in the case of the river Gandak, known also as river Kalyani in Nepal.

The Survey Departments of two countries are engaged in an exercise to resolve the issue to reach a mutually acceptable alignment of boundary in Susta region. In this context, a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) of India and Nepal has been set up to co-ordinate the work relating to inspection/restoration of missing/damaged pillars and resolving anomalies which have developed due to missing pillars, shifting of rivers etc., including in the Susta region.

Construction of roads by China near Border

394. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government of China has been constructing roads near Districts Uttar Kashi and Pithoragarh area adjoining the international boundary of India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar construction of roads has been reported on the border areas near Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of road construction activities by the Chinese side across the international boundary adjoining Uttar Kashi and Pithoragarh.

(c) Yes.

(d) Road construction activities by China have also been reported in the border areas opposite Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

(e) Government attach importance to the development of road infrastructure in India's border areas. Our infrastructure development plans in the border areas are well in place and reviewed from time to time.

Indians in Pakistani jails

395. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 182 Indians have been languishing in Pakistani jails for more than last three decades;

(b) whether this fact has been admitted by Pakistani Government several times; and

(c) whether Government have again renewed its request to the Government of Pakistan to release those persons and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Pakistan has acknowledged that there are 182 Indian civilian prisoners in its custody. Out of the 161